Project Fact Sheet

Collins Pine Cogeneration Project

GOALS

- Determine whether the ethanol facility can produce up to 20 million gallons per year of ethanol from softwood feedstock using BCI technologies.
- Determine whether lignin from the ethanol facility can partially displace the existing fuel of Collins Pine biomass power plant by 30 percent to 60 percent.
- Identify at least one co-product, other than lignin or ethanol, which can be produced by the ethanol facility.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is to determine the technical and economic feasibility of integrating a new biomass-to-ethanol facility with an existing biomass power plant, located in Chester, California. If feasible, these two facilities would be operated together and become customers for each other's products. The ethanol facility would produce lignin for sale to the biomass boiler, which it would use to generate electricity and steam. In addition, the biomass power plant would generate electricity and steam for sale to the ethanol facility.

This project seeks to lower the biomass power plant's electricity-generating costs so that it can become more cost-competitive after subsidies for renewable energy power plants expire in 2004. The lignin fuel supply from the ethanol facility may help to lower the biomass power plant's costs of generating electricity. The ethanol facility would also generate income by producing and selling ethanol and other value added co-products to customers outside of Chester. The project is Phase I of a four-phase effort. If the results of Phase 1 are technically and economically positive, then facility developers may proceed with subsequent phases to design, permit, finance, construct and operate the ethanol facility.

BENEFITS TO CALIFORNIA

The success of the project will: 1) demonstrate the technical and economical feasibility of biomass to ethanol in California; 2) improve system reliability and power quality of California's electricity by seeking a cost-effective way to operate a distributed generation power plant in a rural area, which is prone to electricity supply disruptions; and 3) Maximizing market/economy connection by providing positive impacts to a California local economies by the creation of new jobs and new tax revenues in a rural area.

FUNDING AMOUNT

Commission	$1,148,961
Match	$375,274
Total	$1,524,235

PROJECT STATUS

The Commission issued a stop work order to the Collins Pine Contract on September 19, 2001 due to problems with Collins Pine's subcontractor, BCI, for unsatisfactory performance, and lacking of capabilities to meet the work schedules and provide deliverables on time. The Commission is intending to cancel this project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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